

**City of Gresham**  
**Coalition of Neighborhood Associations**  
**August 10, 2010 – Springwater Trail Room, Gresham City Hall**

***Meeting Minutes***

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
ASERT	<i>John Vandermosten</i>	Northeast	NOT ACTIVE
Centennial	<i>Tom Stanley</i>	North Gresham	
Central City	<i>Clint Holly, Nancy Edmison</i>	Northwest	<i>Bill Humbert</i>
Gresham Butte		Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hollybrook	NOT ACTIVE	Powell Valley	<i>Joe Lagerstrom</i>
Kelly Creek	<i>Carol Rulla</i>	Rockwood	<i>John Bildsoe, Catherine Nicewood</i>
Mt. Hood		Southwest	
North Central	<i>Tia Hough</i>	Wilkes-East	<i>Curt Duvall</i>
Guests:	<i>Erik Kvarsten, Cathy Harrington, Mike Abbaté, Stacy Humphrey</i>		

**Welcome:** The meeting was called to order by Carol Rulla, Coalition President, at 7:00 pm. Carol announced that the Coalition needs a new Secretary/Treasurer as Anita Daily has resigned. She suggested that two people might fill the position, one for land use focused meetings and one for non-land use focused meetings.

**Quorum:** Nine (9) neighborhood associations were represented with elected board members; constituting a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of 7/13/10 approved without correction.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Citizen Involvement Committee's Recommendation on Neighborhood Associations:** John Vandermosten, also a member of the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC), gave background on the recommendation. For more than a year, the CIC has done research on how to help neighborhood associations, including research on programs in 15 different cities. A subgroup of four CIC members looked through the research to determine what would be helpful and doable. The full CIC voted to make the attached recommendation on establishing an Office of Neighborhoods and is now seeking Coalition feedback.

City Manager Erik Kvarsten gave an overview of recent changes in the Community Services department, including promoting Cathy Harrington to a Service Area Manager, moving the Neighborhood Watch program from Police to Community Services, and recently adding Connie Otto to Community Services. If the CIC's recommendation is adopted as presented, Erik proposes changing the name of Community Services to the Office of Neighborhoods & Community Engagement effective 9/15/2010. He anticipates that Cathy would be the director, the city would advertise for volunteers in October, and Council action to officially recognize the Coalition would be this fall. Carol Rulla suggested that volunteers (ombudsman, trainers, etc.) could be selected by a panel consisting of Cathy Harrington, a Coalition member and a CIC member.

Next step – Coalition will give feedback to CIC at CIC's next meeting, Sept. 1, 6:30pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor HR Training Rm. Carol encouraged Coalition members to attend.

Coalition feedback – Carol reported comments from Mads Ledet since he was unable to attend the meeting. Mads suggested that the Coalition be a liaison between the neighborhood associations and the Office of Neighborhoods "for multi-neighborhood issues". Joe Lagerstrom & others concurred. The intent is not for the Coalition to be "between" NA's and the Office of Neighborhoods. Mads's other comments: leadership training most helpful immediately after NA election; speaker's bureau only needed to connect NA with another org.; not certain what ombudsman & developing funding options mean in recommendation; concerned about lengthy draft recommendation becoming half-page; suggested CIC send representatives to attend NA meetings to discuss each NA's relationship with city. John Bildsoe asked how this Office will save the city time & money.

Carol sees ombudsman & others helping Cathy do what she is doing alone now. John V. said CIC recommendation is intended to be a doable first step.

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**Development Code Improvement Project, Round 5 – Stacy Humphrey, City of Gresham:** There are 4 topics this round. (1) Assess Community Service Use (CSU) review. Current code addresses cell towers, schools, libraries, hospitals, etc., but not recycling redemption center, jail, solid wastewater facility, etc. Looking at code changes to make sure different CSU are put in appropriate locations with appropriate standards. John B. asked about pit by Vance Park; Bill Humbert asked about gravel pit on 190<sup>th</sup>. Both are in industrial zones. (2) Introduce a Use Category system for new uses not in code and to standardized code terms & format. Carol suggested Doggy Day Care use be addressed as it has stormwater & residential compatibility issues. (3) Develop a Master Plan process for long-term uses, like hospital or MHCC, so that each addition does not have to go through the same high level review. Carol suggested that a Master Plan include the ability to build unforeseen uses and that an ENN meeting would be important for each addition to consider issues like lighting, structure placement, etc. Clint Holly mentioned lighting problems at MESD. There was no notice to neighborhood and lights shine outward. (4) Review Renewable Energy Systems to create a comprehensive approach & promote renewable energy use. John V. asked whether solar roof panels would be prohibited on the street-side. Stacy said that nothing has been decided and encouraged people to attend the Community Forum next week, 8/17, 6:30pm, Rm. 2A. Planning Commission will have a work session on 8/23, 6:30pm, Springwater Trail Rm.

**Our Parks, Our Future – Mike Abbaté, Planning Director, City of Gresham:** The Green Ribbon Task Force will make its recommendations at next Tuesday's Council meeting (8/17, 3pm) to (1) move ahead with a Parks District on the 2012 ballot, (2) continue outreach & education on the needs & benefits of parks, (3) implement a parks utility fee of less than \$4/mo., and (4) continue partnerships & grants with other entities. Mike gave an overview of the telephone poll of 400 Gresham likely voters & 200 from 3 neighboring cities. Highest rated concerns were (1) water quality, (2) natural areas, (3) wildlife habitat, (4) youth recreation, (5) open space, (6) trails. Of four different funding sources (parks district, bond, levy & utility fee), only the parks district had a plurality of support (49% for, 46% against). Support was higher in Gresham (50%) than in 3 neighboring cities (42%) and among park users & renters. Clint pointed out that parks increase home values. Bill said that Gresham citizens need to speak up for our parks and do something. Mike asked Bill & others to help spread that message. Public outreach includes the 8/1 "Picture Your Parks" photo competition, with winners to be announced at the 8/21 community "Picnic on the Plaza", 11am-2pm, at the Arts Plaza.

#### **NA News, Reports & Land Use Concerns:**

- ◆ John B. reported that there were a lot of homeless people in the pit near Vance Park after Rockwood's National Night Out event, asked others to share any data they might find on the health risks from cell towers, and asked about the criteria for reviewing charter schools (e.g., space per student). Mike said the building code would address room limit size, recreational space, etc.
- ◆ John B. asked what to do about an applicant who held the ENN meeting on a date that was different from the date agreed to by the NA. Mike will check into that particular situation.
- ◆ Carol asked about the new path on 1<sup>st</sup> St., near Kane. She saw a group with strollers get off of it. Joe said that the path was not yet complete. Clint agreed that the path would be fine once it was packed.
- ◆ Carol commented on recent community forums being scheduled close together which makes them harder to attend. Mike said that it is difficult because there are so many meetings but will see what can be done.
- ◆ Carol reported that staff is working on a system to share crime information with NA's. She gave some info from Police about recent daytime residential burglaries. She will send data to Coalition e-mail list and noted that crime stats can be misleading based on how crime is reported (or not) by citizens. Asked if Coalition wants a Police presentation at next meeting. Response was yes. John B. asked for a hands-on presentation on Crime View tool. Nancy Edmison & Clint asked for a report on current crimes. Nancy preferred a report from a uniformed officer.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm.

Notes taken by: Catherine Nicewood, Rockwood NA  
Minutes prepared by: Carol Rulla, Coalition President.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2010 – Springwater Trail Room

*NOTE: The Gresham Coalition of Neighborhood Associations is referred to in the minutes as either "Coalition" or "GCNA". Neighborhood Associations are referred to in the minutes as either "NA or NA's".*